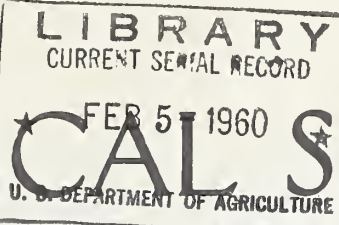


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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

Washington, D. C.

SS-194

January 20, 1958 9

Wheat Promising But Behind Year Ago

Winter wheat has made satisfactory progress over major producing areas. Crop Reporting Board points out, however, that on January 1 it lacked the outstanding promise of last year at this time.

Despite periods of bitter cold, wheat fields had escaped serious damage in central and northern areas. Development was slow, however, on dry southern Plains soils.

Large Stocks of Feed and Food Grains

Farm stocks of feed grains, January 1, were nearly one-tenth above last year and almost a third more than the 1948-57 average. Food grains on farms topped average by more than a fourth and were over one-half larger than last year at this time.

Bountiful Hay Stocks

A record hay crop in 1958 together with a record carryover of old hay made the supply of hay for the 1958-59 feeding season the largest of record. Farm stocks of 90 million tons at the beginning of this year topped last year's big supply by 4 percent and were 27 percent above average. Current stocks are large despite heavy disappearance during the past 8 months of 58 million tons.

Hay Stocks Vary By Regions

Hay supplies in the North Central and Western regions on January 1 were slightly below a year earlier. The North Central States stocks were 29 percent above average and the Western region had stocks 28 percent above average. In the North Atlantic States, stocks were 17 percent above January 1, 1958 and 6 percent above average. In the South Atlantic region, stocks were 31 percent above last year and 18 percent above average. In the South Central States, stocks were 16 percent above a year earlier and 40 percent above average.

Wheat Stocks Up 50% from Year Ago

Stocks of wheat on farms January 1 were the second largest of record and the largest since 1943. The 457 million bushels on farms January 1, 1959 was more than one-half larger than a year earlier and more than a fourth above average.

The North Central States accounted for nearly two-thirds of the U. S. stocks with the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas holding 54 percent of all stocks. The Western region accounted for more than a fourth of the U. S. stocks with nearly one-fourth of the total located in Montana, Idaho, and Colorado.

Disappearance of wheat from farms during the October-December quarter, at 187 million bushels, was the largest of record and compares

with 103 million bushels during the same quarter in 1957 and the average movement of 137 million for the period.

Other Grain Stocks on Farms Jan. 1, 1959

Corn--2.7 billion bushels, topping a year earlier by 9 percent and 27 percent above the Jan. 1 (1948-57) average.

Oats--953 million bushels, 12 percent above 1958 and 17 percent above average.

Sorghum Grain--194 million bushels, 6 percent less than the previous record a year ago but nearly 4 times the average.

Barley--225 million bushels, second largest of record, 7 percent above 1958 and 64 percent above average.

Soybeans--199 million bushels, highest of record, 5 percent above a year earlier and more than double the average for January 1. North Central States accounted for 88 percent of U. S. total farm stocks.

Rye--13 million bushels, almost a third above the stocks a year ago and nearly three-fourth above average.

Flaxseed--15.8 million bushels, 78 percent above a year ago and 18 percent above average.

More Vegetables Than Last Winter

Winter vegetable production is expected to be up from last year by 12 percent Jan. 1 estimates.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Nov. 15 1958	Dec. 15 1958	based on data for Dec. 1958
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	32.38	30.29	38.93
Wheat (bu.) dol.	1.74	1.73	2.44
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.75	4.57	6.04
Corn (bu.) dol.	.942	1.02	1.76
Peanuts (lb.)..... ct.	10.7	10.6	13.2
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb) ct.	58.5	59.1	76.7
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.50	¹ 4.41	5.11
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	² 36.1	² 36.1	71.5
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	.891	.915	1.37
Cottonseed (ton) dol.	43.50	43.00	70.50
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	2.57	2.60	4.37
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	18.20	18.80	26.10
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.569	.589	.893
Potatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	1.15	1.16	2.50
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	.965	.938	1.62
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.) dol.	1.63	1.68	2.69
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	1.89	1.97	3.07
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	3.35	4.54	5.54
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	3.38	2.59	2.40
Apples, for fresh use (bu.) dol.	2.27	2.37	3.11
Beef cattle (100 lb.) dol.	22.20	22.30	23.50
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	26.40	27.00	25.80
Hogs (100 lb.) dol.	17.90	17.40	22.30
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	20.30	19.00	26.30
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	15.1	14.7	28.9
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	38.3	36.3	49.3

¹ Preliminary

² Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

Largest increase is in tomatoes, due largely to more favorable conditions in Florida. Increases expected also in all winter vegetables except carrots, cauliflower, beets, artichokes, Brussels sprouts and shallots.

More Oranges Than Last Year

Based on conditions as of January 1, the 1958-59 orange crop (including tangerines) is expected to total 129 million boxes, 16 percent above last year and 4 percent above average. Total includes Early and Midseason oranges, at 67.1 million boxes; Valencias, 57 million boxes; and Florida's tangerines, 4.5 million boxes.

The Early and Midseason estimate is larger than last year in California and Texas; smaller in Florida, Arizona, and Louisiana. Valencias are more plentiful than last year in all States except Arizona. Tangerine crop is more than twice as large as last year but 5 percent below average.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1957		1958		
	Dec.	Yr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	59.0	58.8	58.9	59.0	59.0
Farm employment.....	5.6	7.6	8.7	6.8	5.6
Family.....	4.7	5.7	6.2	5.3	4.6
Hired.....	1.0	1.9	2.5	1.5	1.0
	Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)				
Industrial production ²	135	143	138	141	142
Total personal income payments ³	171	171	176	177	-
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	157	163	152	158	160
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	156	156	161	164	167
Wholesale prices, all commodities	118	118	119	119	119
Farm commodities	93	91	92	92	91
Food, processed	107	106	110	110	109
Consumer price index ⁴	122	120	124	124	-
Food.....	116	115	120	119	-
	Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)				
Prices received by farmers.....	243	242	252	251	246
Crops	219	233	227	225	220
Food grains	221	225	199	200	198
Feed grains and hay	151	170	153	145	154
Cotton	239	264	281	274	256
Tobacco	466	465	501	485	505
Oil bearing crops	237	252	214	215	215
Fruit	180	214	245	227	212
Vegetables for fresh market	256	249	210	245	228
Livestock and products	263	249	275	274	270
Meat animals	293	279	330	326	323
Dairy products	275	264	271	272	270
Poultry and eggs	185	162	164	164	157
Prices paid by farmers.....					
All commodities.....	276	273	282	283	282
Used in living.....	289	286	291	293	291
Used in production	263	258	271	272	273
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	299	295	307	308	308
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted	565	558	594	594	594
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	81	82	82	81	80

¹Bureau of the Census.

³Department of Commerce.

²Federal Reserve Board.

⁴Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Larger Crop of Grapefruit, Fewer Lemons

Grapefruit crop, at 42.5 million boxes, is about 7 percent above last year, but 6 percent below average. California lemons, now estimated at 15 million boxes, is 11 percent less than last year but 13 percent above average.

Potato Crops Indicated Smaller Than in '58

Production of winter potatoes is estimated at 4,262,000 hundredweight, up 2 percent from the December 1 forecast. Winter crop last year was 4,971,000 cwt.; the 1949-57 average, 4,103,000 cwt.

Growers in the late spring potato areas indicate intentions to plant 156,100 acres in 1959--15 percent less than the 183,000 acres planted in 1958 and the smallest acreage for the late spring crop in recent years. If growers plant the present intended acreage and if 1954-58 average yields are obtained, the 1959 production of late spring potatoes would be 23,509,000 hundredweight, 15 percent less than the 27,499,000 hundredweight harvested in 1958.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Nov. 1957	Jan.-Nov. 1958
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk	Bil. lb.	¹ 126.4	¹ 126.1
Evaporated whole milk	Mil. lb.	2,305.6	2,157.4
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	1,556.0	1,568.8
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	1,307.1	1,281.0
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	955.5	926.6
Ice cream	Mil. gal.	609.3	619.8
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 60.4	¹ 60.6
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	4,591	5,125
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	205.5	238.9
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	464.3	442.9
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	28.0	22.7
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	326.0	324.8
Chicks hatched, total ¹	Millions	¹ 2,098	¹ 2,401
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	1,579	1,803
Poults hatched ³			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 73.4	¹ 71.1
Light breeds.....	Millions	¹ 13.3	¹ 14.5
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	12,788	11,897
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	1,344	1,024
Pork	Mil. lb.	8,697	8,672
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	642	616
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	23,471	22,209
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle	1,000 head	24,251	21,686
Calves.....	1,000 head	10,991	8,607
Hogs	1,000 head	65,992	64,040
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	13,854	12,950

¹January-December.

³By commercial hatcheries.

²Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

Big Stocks of Potatoes--Disappearance High

Stocks of potatoes held by growers and local dealers January 1 totaled 106.8 million hundredweight. This was 18 percent above the holdings of 90.6 million hundredweight a year earlier and 16 percent above the 1949-57 average.

Disappearance of storage potatoes during December 1958 was the highest of the past ten years--21.5 million hundredweight compared with 17.8 million hundredweight in December 1957, and the 1949-57 average of 16.3 million cut.

Smaller Stocks of Onions

Stocks of onions in storage (common and cold storage) January 1, at 4,323,000 hundredweight, were 12 percent below average, but only 3 percent less than on hand a year earlier. Estimates are of sound onions held by growers and dealers.

Milk Production Above Average

The 9,380 million pounds of milk produced in December was only slightly larger than the 9,346 million pounds produced a year earlier but was 12 percent more than the 1947-56 average for the month. Milk production in December was enough to provide 1.73 pounds per person daily--slightly less than in December 1957 but above the December average.

Milk production for the 12 months of 1958 (tentative only) is about 126.1 million pounds compared with the record high of 126.4 billion in 1957. Final estimate of annual production will be published Feb. 13.

Egg Production Up a Little

Hens laid 5,257 million eggs in December 4 percent more than in December 1957 and record high for the month. Egg production was above a year earlier in all regions, except the North Atlantic States where it was down 2 percent. Rate of lay, record high for the month at 16.2 eggs per layer, was above last year in all regions of the country.

Production January through December, 60.6 billion eggs, compares with 60.4 billion same period in 1957; average, 57.9 billion.

More Potential Layers

Potential layers on farms January 1 totaled 361,445,000--3 percent above a year earlier. Compared with last year, potential layers were up 5 percent in the South Atlantic and West, 4 percent in the East North Central and South Central, and 2 percent in the West North Central States.

Lower Prices for Eggs and Poultry

Farmers averaged 36.3 cents a dozen for eggs in mid-December, down 7.9 cents from a year earlier. Farm chickens brought 12.7 cents average per pound live weight and commercial broilers 15.1 cents compared with 13.9 cents and 16.4 cents, respectively, in December 1957. Turkeys brought farmers an average of 23.3 cents per pound live weight compared with 24.5 cents a year earlier.

Feeding Less Favorable For Poultrymen

Poultry feed in mid-December averaged higher than a year earlier and the various feed price relationships (egg-feed, farm chicken-feed, broiler-feed, and turkey-feed) were all less favorable than a year earlier.

Cash Receipts Tables to Appear Next Month

Tables showing cash receipts from farming, which usually appear in this publication, are omitted this month because revised estimates were not available. The estimates for November will be published in the Statistical Summary next month, consolidated with the December figures.

More Cattle on Feed

The 6,489,000 cattle and calves on feed in the U. S. January 1 topped the 5,867,000 head on feed a year earlier by 11 percent. The 10-year average for this date is 5,773,000 head.

In the North Central States, numbers on feed were up 7 percent--4,667,000 head Jan. 1 compared with 4,367,000 a year earlier. Western States (11 Western, Oklahoma, and Texas) show an increase of 23 percent on feed during the past year--1,745,000 head Jan. 1 compared with 1,422,000 a year earlier.

More on Feed for Longer Periods

The number of cattle on feed less than 3 months for the 13 States for which comparable data are available was 9 percent higher on Jan. 1 than a year earlier; number on feed 3 to 6 months, up 14 percent; and the number on feed over 6 months, up 9 percent.

Sheep and Lambs on Feed Up 7%

An estimated 4,280,000 sheep and lambs were on feed for market on January 1--up 7 percent or 270,000 head from a year earlier, though slightly less than the 4,302,000 on feed two years ago. Weather to January 1 has been generally favorable for lamb feeding.

Use of Surplus Foods

About 2.8 billion pounds of foods that had been acquired by the Department of Agriculture was moved in fiscal 1958 through the Direct Distribution program of AMS into consumption channels in this country and abroad. Amount moved was a record high total.

Major special plentiful foods programs were conducted during the year on turkeys, cheese, apples, dry peas, canned and frozen peas, dried prunes, fresh sweet corn, lettuce, watermelons, dairy products and peaches.

The plentiful foods program increased consumption of foods especially abundant. It gave assistance to orderly marketing through sustained merchandising drives conducted with the cooperation of the food trades and information media.

Increased School Lunch Participation

The number of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program continued upward during the past year--increasing in fiscal '58 to 59,930 schools. The number of children eating lunches with milk under the Program rose to 11.5 million. And the number of schools and child-care institutions taking part in the Special Milk Program increased to 76,478 from a total of 71,239 in the previous year. Milk consumption under the program totaled 1,918 million half pints, up 9 percent over the previous fiscal year.

Big Increase in Pig Crops

Last year's pig crop of 94.8 million head was larger by 8 percent than in 1957. Total included a spring crop of 52.3 million head and the fall crop of 42.5 million head. Spring crop was up only 1 percent, but fall crop was up 17 percent from a year earlier.

For the 1959 spring crop, breeding intentions indicate a total of 8,317,000 sows to farrow. This would be a 12-percent increase from last spring. Based on these intentions and allowance for upward trend, a spring pig crop of 59 million pigs is indicated, or an increase from last spring of 13 percent.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1957 average	\$1,007	\$401	\$606	40%
1957 November	1,012	408	604	40%
1958 October	1,053	410	643	39%
1958 November	1,049	407	642	39%

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

Big Cotton Acreage in Soil Bank in '58

With growers placing around 5 million acres of their 1958 allotments in the Soil Bank, the cotton acreage planted in 1958 dropped to 12,375,000 acres, compared with 14,310,000 in 1957 and the average of 23,192,000 acres (around 3 million acres were placed in the 1957 Soil Bank). Abandonment of planted acreage in 1958 was estimated at 4.2 percent, leaving 11,858,000 acres for harvest--the smallest since 1876. Acreage harvested in 1957 totaled 13,558,000 acres.

Larger Turkey Crop in Prospect

Turkey growers plan to produce 5 percent more turkeys in 1959 than last year. If intentions are carried out, about 81.9 million turkeys will be raised, compared with 77.9 million in 1958. Light breeds would be increased 16 percent, heavy breeds 3 percent.

Fewer Farmers at Work in December

The 5,615,000 persons at work on farms late in December compared with 5,640,000 at work in December 1957. Total at work included 4,633,000 farm family workers and 982,000 hired laborers, both considerably lower than in late November due to the winter slump in farming operations.

New Booklet on Outlook Service

A booklet describing how USDA provides agricultural outlook services for farmers and handlers of farm products has just been issued jointly by the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Federal Extension Service, USDA. This 14-page publication, "The Federal and State Agricultural Outlook Service" (PA-385) may be obtained free by writing to the Marketing Information Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, 25, D. C.